Have your say on changes to Home to School Transport Policy and Post-16 Transport Policy
From 13 January to 23 February 2020

Easy Read Information Pack
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Introduction

Hampshire County Council wants to find out what you think about its ideas to change the:

- Home to School Transport Policy
- Post-16 Transport Policy

The changes will start in September 2020.

The changes are being put forward to make the policies easier for parents and carers to understand.
The law says that the County Council must find out what people think:

- when school transport policies change

- about the Post-16 Transport Policy, every year.

If the policies change, only those who apply for transport after September 2020 will be affected.

The chance to have your say will start on **Monday 13 January 2020**.

It will end on **Sunday, 23 February 2020**.
You can read the **school transport policy** at:
http://documents.hants.gov.uk/transport-home-to-school/HTSTPolicy.docx

Find out more information about school transport at:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport

You can read the County Council’s current **Post-16 Transport Policy** at:


The County Council is updating its **Post-16 Transport Policy Statement**.
The Statement says what parents and carers of young people **over 16** who use transport need to do.

This update could save the County Council about **£680,000** every year.

It would not affect anyone who uses school transport now.

But it may affect students who:

- change schools

- move home

- are using transport for a fixed amount of time.
Our 5 rules
We promise to follow 5 rules when we carry out all our surveys.

1 – Give local people the chance to have their say about changes to services.

2 – Give local people lots of time to tell us what they think about the changes.

3 – Give local people the chance to be involved.

4 – Use clear and easy to understand information, such as Easy Read.

5 – Make sure that what we find out, helps the County Council to decide how services may change.
Your feedback is important

It is important that everyone who could be affected by the changes to school transport policy has their say:

- children and young people
- their families and carers
- other people who would like to know more about the service.

The final report about this feedback form will be ready later in 2020.
How to give us your feedback

You can:
• complete an Easy Read form online:
  www.hants.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation
• email your completed survey to
  school.transport@hants.gov.uk

Please post your completed Easy Read survey using your pre-paid envelope.

If you do not have a pre-paid envelope, please write on the front of your envelope:

Freepost HAMPSHIRE
on the **back** of the envelope:

‘School Transport Consultation’

You *do not* need to use a stamp.

If you need a return envelope, please email or phone us.
The School Transport Service

Home to School Transport

The County Council runs free transport so that some children can go to school.

You can find out how to apply for school transport at:

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schooltransport
By law, the County Council must run free transport for:

- children under **8 years old** that go to their closest school, and the shortest walking route is over **2 miles**

- children **8 years old and over** that go to their nearest school, and the shortest walking route is:
  - over **3 miles**
  - **2 miles** if the child is from a low-income family.

- children who cannot walk safely to school.

If parents or carers apply for a place at their local school and they **do not** get a place,
their child could get help with transport if they need to walk more than 2 miles or 3 miles to their school.

Children with mobility problems can get free transport.

The County Council runs a school transport service for about 13,000 students every day:

- **10,000** students who go to schools for students of all abilities
- **3,000** students who go to schools supporting their special needs or disability.
In some cases, children may not have to pay for transport.

**Transport for students over 16 years old**

Not all students *over 16* get free transport.

By law, the County Council must support young people *aged 16 to 19 years old* to study or train.

The County Council may support adults *over 19 years old* who are studying or going to training courses to use transport.

You can read the Government’s guidelines for transport for *over 16s* at:

It looks at transport for students between **16 and 26 years old** who go to:

- school

- college

- places funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;

- organisations that give training, work or apprenticeships.
The County Council runs transport for about 300 students:

- that are **16 to 19 years old**
- that are up to **25 years old** and have an Education, Health and Care Plan

Some parents or carers pay for this service.
How much does the transport to school service cost?

Every year the cost is £32 million.

Over the last 5 years the County Council has:

- used school minibuses to keep costs down
- made new contracts with transport companies to save money
- offered transport in special cases for a shorter time
• changed the rules for who can get free transport

• raised the number of children and young people that pay for transport.

The ideas for changing the school transport for over 16s could save about £680,000.
Idea 1

Change the **Home to School Transport policy** so that it is clear how the distance from home to school is measured.

What happens now?

The distance from a child’s home is:

‘The shortest way to walk from their home to a school entrance.’

To read the policy, go to [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk) and search for ‘travel to school’.
What is being talked about?

As schools and colleges have a few entrances, the new policy could say:

“The distance should be measured from the ‘nearest school entrance’ from the child’s home’.

Why change?

This change is being talked about to bring the **Home to School Transport Policy** into line with what already happens.

It will be clearer to parents and carers about how distances are measured.
No money will be saved as a result of this change.

**How will this happen?**

The distance from home to school is already being measured this way.

If agreed, the policy will be updated in **September 2020**.

**How could this affect service users?**

Children or young people already using school transport will not be affected.
Idea 2

Change the Home to School Transport Policy to make it clear when the way to the nearest school is:

- measured by roads
- measured by footpaths

What happens now?

If the distance from home to school is:

- over 2 miles
- over 3 miles for children aged 8 or over,

the County Council may need to run school transport for a young person.

The County Council measures the distance from home to school using the road, but this is not clear in the policy.
What is being talked about?

Update the Home to School Transport Policy to include road routes, to work out the distance from home to school.

If the distance from home to school is:

- over 2 miles
- over 3 miles for children aged 8 or over.

Why change?

It should be clear in the new policy that the County Council works out the distance from home to school using road routes.

No money will be saved as a result of this change.
How will this happen?

Distances from home to school would be worked out using the nearest road route.

What about those who already use transport?

Anyone who gets school transport would still get this service.
Idea 3

Change the **Home to School Transport Policy**

To make it clear that school transport **would not** be stopped if a school nearer to a student’s home is available.

**What happens now?**

If a student cannot get a place at their local school, they can get transport to the nearest available school.
The County Council may stop the transport when the student starts **Year 3** starts if:

- a place becomes available at their local school or
- a school nearer to their home

**What is being talked about?**

Update the Home to School Transport Policy to say:

“School transport **would not** be stopped if a student chooses not to move to a nearer school.”

Students could carry on getting school transport until they leave school or move home.
Why change?

Parents and carers would have more choice.

This is because they know school transport would not be stopped if they did not move their child to a nearer school.

• The number of times that school transport is stopped is very low.

How will this happen?

The Home to School Transport Policy will be updated to say:

“Children will qualify for school transport even if they say ‘no’ to a place at a school closer to their home.”
What about those who already use transport?

Anyone who gets school transport would still get this service.
Idea 4

Change the Home to School Transport Policy on how to appeal.

What happens now?

Parents, carers and service users can appeal if they are not happy:

- because they have been told they cannot get school transport
- with an offer of school transport.
Appeals about school transport offers are heard by the Head of Transport in the Children’s Services Department.

What is being talked about?

Appeals about transport that has been offered will be heard by a senior officer who does not work in the Home to School Service.

The officer will understand transport policy and the law.

The way to appeal will be the same for people who are refused transport.
Why change?

No money will be saved if this change is made.

How will this happen?

All appeals about school transport that has been offered would be heard by a senior officer.

How could this affect service users?

It would not affect anyone who currently gets school transport.
Idea 5

Make the **Post-16 Transport Policy** clearer for parents and carers of students who get school transport.

To read the 2020 to 2021 **Post-16 Transport Policy** go to: [www.hants.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation)

What happens now?

The **Post-16 Transport Policy** says:

“*The County Council runs a school transport service for some students over 16 who are studying.*”

Parents and carers of students **aged 16 to 19** are **expected** to arrange transport for their children.
The policy says:

**16 to 19-year-olds** may get transport if parents and carers have to take children to another school at the same time of the day.

The County Council knows that some students **aged 16 to 19 years old** with special needs or disabilities need transport.

Parent and carers are asked to pay something towards the cost of this transport service.

Low-income households do not pay anything.

What is being talked about?

Update the **Post-16 Transport Policy** to say:
“If a child is **under 19**, parents and carers must show that their child needs transport to study.”

Students would not get transport if:

- the hours of parents’ and carers’ work or child-care do not fit in with public transport or college times
- parents and carers need to take other children to and from school
- parents and carers need to use the family car for other things
If it is agreed to run a school transport service, parents and carers would be asked to pay towards the cost.

When a child is **18 years old**, they could apply for transport.

If agreed the County Council may ask the student, parent or carer to pay for this service.

When a student is **19 years old**, they are treated as an adult, not a child.

But there is no charge for school transport if it is provided under the **Adult Duty** for students **over 19 years old**.
The **Adult Duty** means that the County Council supports students **aged 19 to 25** to go to college if they need transport.

To qualify they must start their course **before their 19th birthday**.

**Why change?**

In **summer 2019**, local families told the County Council they did not think the policy was clear.

If there were less offers of transport to students **over 18 years old**, there could be savings of **£680,000** every year.
How will this happen?

This idea would apply to anyone who applies for transport to study from **September 2020**.

How could this affect service users?

Parents, carers and service users will need to apply for transport for **over 16s** every year.

The new policy means some students **over 16 years old** may not get transport.

This is because some parents and carers would have to arrange transport for their children until they are **18 years old**.
Tell us what you think

Please tell us what you think by Sunday 23 February 2020.

The final report will be ready later in 2020.

It will be shown to Councillor Patricia Stallard, the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services and Young People.

The report will help the County Council to make decisions about transport and school transport.
Other ways to read this document

Do you need the Easy Read Information Pack or Easy Read Survey in another format?

- Large print

- Audio – a recording of this document spoken out loud, that can be played on your device or CD player.

- Braille
Do you have any questions about this Easy Read Survey, you can:

Email us at school.transport@hants.gov.uk

Call: 0300 555 1384*

0300 calls are usually free from both mobiles and landlines.

When you have finished with this document, please give it to someone else so that they can give their feedback.